

thrive and to grow and to make a difference.

Frankly, that is why we are here in this Congress. That is why we are here in this great country of ours. We all try in some small way to make life better, to make our community better and our Nation better. And I know, just as the gentleman is willing to stand up for what he believes, to take the positions that you did in this Congress, you will continue to stand up for your beliefs, your concerns, your passion and make a difference in this life.

You are a person with character. You are a person who really, truly is committed to making this a better world. I am delighted to salute you and to thank you for all you have done, and I look forward to continuing to work with you and keeping in touch with you.

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FORBES. I yield to the gentleman from North Dakota.

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, first of all, I want to express my appreciation for the Speaker's latitude in allowing us to reflect briefly upon the service of the gentleman from New York (Mr. FORBES) here.

As your term comes to a close, let me just indicate that I, for one, certainly am going to continue to think about the example of strength and counsel that you have shown during your time here.

I think that the fundamental thing our constituents expect of us as we stand and ask for their vote and then take their trust and come to Congress to represent their interests is that we act out of the courage of our convictions and we stand by our beliefs. And in the course of now four terms, I cannot recall an example where I have seen someone exercise the courage of their convictions in the way you have. Obviously putting yourself at tremendous political risk and irrespective of the consequences, you did it because in your heart you felt it was what you had to do.

Our constituents can expect no finer performance of our responsibilities than how you have exhibited, and your example is going to be reflected upon by so many of us for a long time to come.

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the comments of my colleagues.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE EDWARD A. PEASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of what I believe to be one of Indiana's greatest, and that is Representative ED PEASE. ED PEASE is not just a public official, he is an outstanding public servant.

I have known ED PEASE for many years. As a matter of fact, I have known him longer than I have any other member of the Indiana Congressional delegation. We had the pleasure of serving with him in the Indiana State Senate between 1980 and 1990 and in the House of Representatives here in Congress since 1996.

Although we hardly ever vote alike, and certainly do not look alike, and do not happen to belong to the same political party, some people may refer to us as the odd couple, because we do think a lot about a lot of things in terms of values and principles. I wanted to stand here today and give ED PEASE, wherever he is, a standing ovation for outstanding public service.

Members on both sides of the aisle were saddened to learn of Mr. PEASE's retirement that he announced in April of this year. He has always been a thoughtful lawmaker. His neighbor-to-neighbor politics have served Indiana's Seventh District extremely well. He has been a sincere leader in the House, and will be missed by both sides.

This sincerity was illustrated when confronted by the press about his retirement, Congressman PEASE replied, "I ask only that you remember that you elected me to exercise my best judgment, and I do so no less in this decision."

Many, however, still feel that Mr. PEASE's tenure in the House was too short, and it is not hard to understand why. Mr. PEASE was often called upon to lead this House as Speaker of the House pro tempore, and his parliamentary skills and strong reputation for fairness have proved invaluable in times of heated debate.

ED PEASE worked tirelessly on matters affecting his fellow Hoosiers, including Indiana's return of Federal fuel tax dollars. One of his proudest moments came when he secured a 92 percent return on the fuel tax dollars for the State of Indiana.

I will miss Congressman PEASE immensely, and know that this body is the poorer as a result of his departure. I realize that there have been happenstances that have occurred to him during his membership here which undoubtedly will deter his interest in continuing his membership in this august body, but I am often reminded of a little phrase that we had to master when we were building our typing skills in school, and that was about all

good men coming to the aid of the party. Certainly ED PEASE has come not only to the aid of his party, but he has come to the aid of the State of Indiana, and certainly the United States Congress.

I would close in reminding my distinguished colleague, wherever he is at this moment, that there was a very wise poet that wrote many years ago, for every drop of rain that falls, a flower grows; and that somewhere in the darkest night, a candle glows.

Despite the adverse incidents of Mr. PEASE's experience here in Washington, D.C., as a Member of the House of Representatives, that rain that has fallen certainly will provide a flower to grow for many years to come, and he will certainly be a light, not only for the citizens of the State of Indiana, but for this country as well.

I know that whatever Congressman PEASE chooses to do next, he will continue his service to the country with the same attributes that he displayed in the House of Representatives.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the special order just given.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION VERSUS TAX BREAKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to continue my call for this Congress to pass real school construction legislation without further delay. We have missed opportunity after missed opportunity, and it is time to stop playing partisan games and pass a meaningful bill to address this urgent priority.

Madam Speaker, as a Congressman from the Second Congressional District of North Carolina, I represent an area of the country that has undergone tremendous growth in recent years. In communities throughout my county and my district, our schools are bursting at the seams. The same can be said for this country. Our local communities are struggling to provide resources to build new schools and to get our children out of trailers and to fix up rundown school buildings.

Throughout my district, students in overflowing schools are being packed in trailers that are years old and long past their use. As an example, in Franklin County, 55 trailers; in Granville County, 16; Harnett County, 41;